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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION*

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labcur Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
MULPOC	Multinational Programming and Operational Centre
PADIS	Pan-African Development Information System
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting (1st and 2nd meetings) at United Nations Headquarters on 6 May 1991, and held its thirty-first session (3rd to 49th meetings) at United Nations Headquarters from 13 May to 12 June.

A. Agenda

2. The Agenda for the thirty-first session, adopted by the Committee at its 2nd meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 1/ decided to consider at its thirty-first session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical cooperation projects" (A/44/646) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (A/45/648).

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st, 2nd and 37th meetings, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Ms. Maria Elisa de Bittencourt Berenguer (Brazil)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Kees W. Spaans (Netherlands)
Mr. El Hassane Zahid (Morocco)
Mr. H. I. Jasin (Indonesia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris Goudima (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
France
Germany
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Austria
Canada
Costa Rica
Cuba
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
Ghana
Hungary
Jamaica
Kenya
Mali
Mexico
Nicaragua
Peru
Portugal
Romania
Senegal
Spain
Sweden
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Yugoslavia

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
World Bank
International Monetary Fund

8. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Controller, and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the representatives of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Political and Security Council

Affairs, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the Office for Research and the Collection of Information and the Department of Public Information. Representatives of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Centre for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Food Council (WFC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) also attended the session. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. T. Kabongo, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-first session is contained in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its 49th meeting, on 12 June 1991, the Committee adopted the draft report on its thirty-first session (E/AC.51/1991/L.4 and Add.1-47) as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Introduction and overview

11. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 was introduced by the Secretary-General to the Committee at its 18th meeting on 23 May 1991.

12. At its 18th to 30th meetings, on 23 to 31 May, the Committee considered the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

13. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for personally introducing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

14. A number of delegations considered that the Introduction provided a comprehensive overview of the main characteristics of the proposed programme budget. It was a positive step in the search for the transparency and conciseness which would facilitate the review of the programme budget.

15. Several delegations expressed concern at the proposed rate of real growth of 0.9 per cent. They pointed out that the Secretary-General, in his proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993, had projected such growth at zero per cent. Several delegations noted that the overall level of resources requested by the Secretary-General was below the adjusted preliminary estimate at 1992-1993 prices indicated in General Assembly resolution 45/255 of 21 December 1990.

16. Other delegations stressed that the Secretary-General's proposals for growth should be viewed in the light of the level of resources necessary for achieving the Organization's objectives and implementing its mandated activities. They added that the estimate provided by the outline was purely indicative.

17. The methodology of the programme budget was seen by a number of delegations as too complex. The need was emphasized for a simpler approach, which would facilitate a comparison between the outline and the programme budget. A revised methodology should also permit a more realistic calculation of the rate of growth and an easier comparison between the current and the proposed programme budgets. In this context, several delegations expressed their concern at the error which had been made when the proposed outline had been recosted from revised 1991 to 1992-1993 prices.

18. Other aspects questioned by a number of delegations were the distinction between non-recurrent and recurrent expenditures, the lack of a comprehensive treatment of inflation and currency fluctuations, and the complexity of the presentation of objects of expenditure.

19. A number of delegations considered the present budget format inadequate for informed decision-making on the United Nations programme budget. Delegations questioned whether the present format could indeed be considered to be an integrated programme budget. Several delegations remarked that one of the main reasons for this appeared to be a lack of clear responsibility and accountability of programme managers. It was also remarked that the distinction between "objectives" and "activities" was often unclear.

20. A number of delegations noted that the format of presentation of the sections of the proposed programme budget, while improved, remained uneven. The presentation of activities within eight categories was helpful in some cases and cumbersome in others, particularly when there was a long enumeration of reports and publications. Some delegations felt that more regrouping of activities was required, while others stressed that a precise description of outputs was necessary to justify the resources requested and to facilitate the reporting on programme performance. It was also noted that in many cases the presentation of the objectives, of both programmes and subprogrammes, was too vague.

21. A number of delegations recommended that the budget format should be improved considerably. They criticized the enormous amount of detail in the budget and suggested a less voluminous, more transparent document, which would allow Members to take informed decisions on the proposed programmes and the resources required. Several delegations recommended that the system of "established posts" should be replaced, at the programme level, by a system of "work-months". This would serve to render the Organization's staffing structure less rigid and would allow for optimum use of staff resources in order to enhance programme delivery.

22. A number of delegations stated that the broad priority to be given to the economic development of developing countries was not adequately reflected in the proposed programme budget. The negative rates of real growth for section 15, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and section 18, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, were regretted. Other delegations stressed that the increased resources proposed for the five broad areas of priority should have been accommodated through redeployments and the phasing out of obsolete or irrelevant activities. They pointed out that the Organization should acquire more flexibility in the budgeting and use of its resources. In this context, some delegations regretted the lack of specific references in the proposed programme budget to the continuing process of reforms called for in General Assembly resolution 45/254 of 21 December 1990. Several delegations stressed the importance of workload analyses and other management techniques which the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to use in the preparation of the programme budget.

23. With regard to priority-setting among subprogrammes, several delegations recalled that programmes with a single subprogramme still had to be considered as high priority. Some delegations felt that activities and outputs proposed with a low priority appeared to be concentrated in areas pertaining to economic development.

24. Different views were expressed concerning the proposed additional posts and reclassifications. Some delegations noted that all but one of the reclassifications were upgradings. A number of delegations felt that the

policy of "maximum restraint" called for in resolution 45/254 had not been respected. It was stressed that in most cases adequate supporting justifications, such as workload analyses, measurement of productivity and a precise relationship with the programme of work, had not been provided. A number of delegations objected to the proposed reclassifications, which were a substitute for a proper functioning of the promotion system. Several delegations stated that all proposed additional posts and reclassifications should have been accommodated through redeployments within and between sections of the budget.

25. Several delegations queried the rationale for the transfer to the regular budget of posts currently financed by extrabudgetary resources. Other delegations stated that these transfers in some cases were justified and could even have been more extensive. A number of delegations also questioned the proposed conversion of posts from temporary to established. The complexity of the terminology used for the designation of the various categories of posts was regretted.

26. While noting the progress made in the presentation of extrabudgetary resources, a number of delegations emphasized the continuing need for more transparency, particularly with regard to the role of such resources in the financing of high priority activities. It was noted that the reliability of the projections made by the Secretariat for the level of extrabudgetary resources remained questionable.

27. Several delegations noted with concern the proposed increases for consultants, contractual services, travel, and equipment. Other delegations stressed that it would be desirable to indicate more precisely the positive effects of the technological innovations programmes proposed throughout the Organization.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. General considerations

28. The Committee noted that the proposed programme budget had been prepared within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990. It also noted that the proposed distribution of resources for the biennium 1992-1993 by major programme of the medium-term plan and part of the programme budget should enable the Organization to fulfil its objectives and mandates and respond effectively to the demands of the international community. It further noted that approximately one fifth of the resources requested by the Secretary-General corresponded to activities which were not programmed in the medium-term plan.

29. The Committee recalled the budgetary process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

30. The Committee noted that, for most sections of the proposed programme budget, programmes of work had not been reviewed by intergovernmental bodies. Such reviews should become systematic and should include recommendations on the proposed activities and priorities within the framework of the

orientations and objectives provided by the medium-term plan. The Committee stressed that the first revisions to the medium-term plan should involve the active participation of the competent intergovernmental bodies. The Committee also stressed that, during the implementation of the programme budget, all intergovernmental bodies should fulfil their role within their terms of reference and in full conformity with the budgetary procedures established by resolution 41/213. Such a process required the active participation of the various relevant units of the Secretariat.

31. The Committee noted that the proposed programme budget was prepared within the existing structures of the Organization, including those resulting from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and subsequent resolutions on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. However, the Committee noted the need to have reflected in the programme budget further specific administrative and budgetary measures to enhance the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization, pursuant to those resolutions.

32. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should consider the proposed programme budget within the context of a continuing search for improved efficiency in the functioning of the Organization and its capacity to fulfil its objectives and mandates. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should intensify the search for improvements in the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the Organization and should propose in the programme budget such measures which might contribute to this end. This would enhance the flexibility of the Organization and its capacity to respond effectively to needs and mandates.

33. The Committee, noting that the ongoing process of revitalization and restructuring in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, including the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, might affect the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, recalled its mandate for considering all programmes embodied in the budget of the United Nations.

2. Overall resource requirements

34. The Committee recalled that its conclusions and recommendations on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/255.

35. The Committee recommended that the programme budget should reflect the premises on which the outline proposed by the Secretary-General had been based and adopted, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

36. The Committee noted that the total amount of resources requested by the Secretary-General was below the adjusted preliminary estimate of the outline at similar prices.

37. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should consider those overall resource requirements in the light of the mandates and activities of the Organization to be implemented during the biennium.

38. The Committee noted the proposed rate of real growth of 0.9 per cent and the difference between this growth rate and the zero rate of real growth as contained in the outline. Nevertheless, the Committee noted the methodological difficulties that still hampered a comparison between the proposed programme budget and the outline on the basis of which the budget was to be prepared. In the light of these difficulties, the Committee was not in a position to fully appreciate all the programmatic significance of such growth.

39. The Committee emphasized that the proposed resource requirements and rates of real growth by part and section of the programme budget should be in line with the mandates, the programmed activities, and established priorities.

40. The Committee underlined the need to adhere to all the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 45/255 on the outline, 45/253 on programme planning and 45/254 on review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

41. The Committee noted the changes in the staffing table of the Organization proposed by the Secretary-General. In this respect, it noted that the programmatic justifications to these changes were of uneven quality in the various sections of the budget. Whereas in some of these sections, the creation, the expansion of programmes or the impact of the ongoing reform process were pertinently stressed as justifications for the requirements by the Secretary-General, in some other sections, however, such requirements were insufficiently justified.

42. The Committee also noted that the procedures and norms currently used to evaluate the workload and other needs of the various units in the Secretariat, to justify the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts, should be further refined.

43. The Committee recommended, in this respect, that the General Assembly should designate competent bodies of the Organization to consider this question in order to develop procedures and norms which were simpler, more transparent and more rational, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

44. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should consider at its forty-sixth session the proposals of the Secretary-General on the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts in the various sections of the budget in the light of comments and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and its own comments and observations contained in the present report and with the continuing search for increased efficiency in the Organization.

3. Priorities

45. The Committee recalled resolution 45/255 in which the General Assembly noted the proposals of the Secretary-General and the views expressed by Member States on priorities, and endorsed CPC's recommendation thereon and requested the Secretary-General to pay particular attention to them in preparing his

proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It noted that increases in resources had been proposed for a number of programmes and sections falling under the scope of these broad priorities. It also noted that the broad priority on economic development of developing countries was relevant to most sections of the programme budget.

46. The Committee noted that some subprogrammes with priority designations in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 were presented with increased resources. The Committee also noted that many other priority subprogrammes, particularly in the economic and social sectors, did not receive increased resources. The Committee recalled in this regard the pertinent regulations and rules. The Committee further noted that the full implementation of a number of such subprogrammes would depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

47. The Committee also noted the proposals made for high and low priority designations among activities and outputs. It stressed the importance of priority-setting at this level for the implementation of the programme budget and for the use of the contingency fund. It also stressed that the pertinent regulations and rules should be kept under review.

4. Methodology

48. The Committee concluded that the methodology used for the preparation of the programme budget, including its relation with the outline should be revised and improved. The current methodology was too complex to permit a full understanding of the main features of the programme budget, of its relation with the outline, and of its relation with the previous programme budgets. A revision of the methodology should involve a clearer distinction between recurrent and non-recurrent expenditures, a clearer and more concise presentation of objects of expenditure, a transparent and more acceptable approach to the question of the measurement of growth, and a better presentation of the allocation of extrabudgetary resources.

49. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should convene an ad hoc technical seminar to review these questions of methodology before the thirty-second session of CPC, without cost to the Organization. The participants would be experts acting in their personal capacity, with special qualifications and expertise in budgeting in multilateral organizations or Member States. Interested members of CPC and ACABQ would be invited in the same capacity as experts.

5. Format

50. The Committee took note with appreciation of the changes made in the structure of the programme budget, which reflected a closer correspondence with the major programmes and programmes of the medium-term plan. The Committee noted, however, that the quality of the narrative in various sections was unsatisfactory. The Committee recommended that further efforts should be made to specify the objectives pursued and the proposed activities, and that the relationship between regular budget resources and extrabudgetary resources should be more clearly indicated. It recommended that the

presentation in the programme budget of the relationship between programmes and resources should be further improved.

51. The Committee recommended that the programmatic analysis contained in the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, including changes from one biennium to another, should be improved.

52. The Committee noted that activities pertaining to the fulfilment of similar and comparable objectives were presented in different sections. The Committee recommended that further efforts should be made by the Secretariat to rationalize the presentation of the programme budget in this regard.

53. The Committee further recommended that the budget format ought to be restructured, with a view to providing more information on the programmatic content of the budget, greater transparency to Member States, optimum use of resources and more flexibility. The Committee invited the Secretary-General to submit a prototype of a new budget format along these lines to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the ACABQ and CPC.

6. Documentation

54. The Committee noted that, in spite of certain improvements, the question of documentation remained a cause for concern. The late issuance of some documents in all official languages had hampered the work of the Committee. The Committee recommended that this question should be studied in relation with the process of preparation of the programme budget, the scheduling of its meetings and its reporting procedures to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

55. At its 26th meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Conclusions and recommendations

56. The Committee noted that, as indicated in the introduction to the proposed programme budget, the policy-making organs and offices included in section 1 were not within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

57. The Committee considered that the scheduling and duration of its meetings might be revised in the light of General Assembly resolution 45/264 regarding changes in the programme of work of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee recommended that the second and third sentences of paragraph 1.37 should read as follows: "The Chairman has also been attending the regular session of the Economic and Social Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to introduce the report of CPC and participate in the work of these bodies".

58. The Committee recommended the deletion of the first sentence of paragraph 1.60.

59. The Committee further noted that references made in this section to the concept of peace-making had to be seen in the light of its consideration of section 2 of the proposed programme budget.

60. The Committee took note of section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 2. Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information

61. At its 43rd and 44th meetings, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

62. A number of delegations emphasized their support for the work of the Organization in this area.

63. One delegation, emphasizing the importance of peace-keeping activities referred specifically to the role of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Another delegation did not accept selective mention of specific peace-keeping operations.

64. Some delegations expressed concern at the reduction in resources available to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Programmes to Cambodians.

65. Given the need to clarify the concept of peace-making and the Organization's role in that connection, some delegations suggested that the title of section 2 should be changed and the reference to peace-making deleted. Other delegations had no difficulty with the title and saw no reason for a change.

66. Some delegations suggested that if the title and text of the section relating to peace-making were not changed, the Committee should only take note of section 2 and recommend its approval only after, and in the light of, comments and recommendations to be made by appropriate intergovernmental organs on the question of peace-making. In this context, the Special Political Committee and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly were suggested as suitable forums for discussion. Other delegations had no problem with the concept of peace-making and, in any case, believed that assignment of responsibility for this matter should rest with the General Committee of the Assembly.

67. Specific textual changes proposed by one delegation included:

(a) In the first sentence of paragraph 2.3, delete the words "and other special missions";

(b) In the penultimate sentence of paragraph 2.7, delete the words "and a range of related matters";

(c) In paragraph 2.7, delete the final sentence;

(d) In the first sentence of paragraph 2.8, delete the words "and related missions".

68. A number of delegations stressed that the distribution of the proposed growth among the various parts of this section was not satisfactory.

69. One delegation queried the suitability of the classification of activities under subprogramme 1 by major categories of activities.

70. The proposal to convert temporary posts in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia to established status was questioned. The Committee was informed that the Special Representative covered a number of issues affecting the region and that his work would not be completed when a settlement of the situation in Cambodia was reached.

71. One delegation suggested that provision for the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon should be made under section 4, given the related liaison functions of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services.

72. One delegation noted that the Secretary-General should make every effort to secure voluntary contributions in cash and in kind for peace-keeping operations financed through the regular budget.

73. One delegation queried a recurrent provision being made for replacement of vehicles for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, when similar provisions in other sections of the budget were made on a non-recurrent basis. It felt that this was another example of the lack of transparency and consistency in the application of the concept of non-recurrent resources.

74. A number of delegations queried the justification for the new posts and other additional resources proposed for the Office for Research and the Collection of Information. One delegation emphasized the importance of the Office's work and supported the proposed increase in its resources.

75. With regard to the mandate of the Office, one delegation queried the reference in paragraph 2.71. A number of delegations expressed concern that the Office's work relating to flows of refugees might duplicate the efforts of other organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It was suggested that the mandates and division of responsibility in this area should be reviewed.

76. Some delegations felt that the proposed recurrent provision for the replacement of 71 vehicles (para. 2.51) made it difficult to justify the non-recurrent resources requested in other sections of the budget for the same purpose.

Conclusions and recommendations

77. The Committee emphasized the importance of the Organization's work in the area of peace-keeping and the maintenance of international peace and security.

78. The Committee noted that, in accordance with resolution 45/253, the concept of peace-making would be brought to the attention of the competent organs and intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, in order to allow the Fifth Committee to take action on this section within its mandate.

79. On this understanding, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 3. Political and Security Council Affairs

80. At its 19th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

81. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs in the servicing of the Security Council and its Committees.

82. A number of delegations expressed regret at the late issuance of official records and other documents for whose preparation of printing provision was made in section 3. Some delegations queried the value of issuing such documents at all if they were seriously delayed. A number of delegations also queried the proposed provisions for personal computers and it was stressed that proper control should be exercised over expenditures on such equipment.

83. Some delegations queried the periodicity of a number of the directories and other publications to be prepared under subprogramme 3 and felt that issuance of such material on an annual basis would be adequate. Other delegations doubted whether there was adequate provision for fellowships to allow participants from developing countries to attend seminars and training programmes on aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space and stressed the importance of these activities.

84. Delegations expressed different views on the venue of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Conclusions and recommendations

85. The Committee noted the priorities which had been proposed.

86. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 4. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

87. At its 27th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

88. A number of delegations queried the rationale for maintaining separate Divisions for General Assembly Affairs and for Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services and suggested a merger would enhance efficiency. Other delegations stated that such a merger might not be desirable in the context of the efforts at revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Reference was also made to the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the Organization.

89. A number of delegations questioned the rationale for the dispersion of editorial functions, both within the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and between that Office and the Department of Conference Services. It was suggested that consolidation of such functions under the Department of Conference Services would promote efficiency and economy in this important area of work.

90. A number of delegations stressed that the post of Secretary of the Committee for Programme and Coordination should be classified at the appropriate level. Other delegations stressed that subprogramme 4, Question of Palestine: exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, should be given high priority, and that the resources of the Division for Palestinian Rights should be strengthened. One delegation did not accept the proposed increase in the resources for the Division for Palestinian Rights.

91. With regard to the new post proposed in this section, which is to enhance the Office's editorial capacity, it was suggested that a reduction in the volume of documentation and the production of documents on schedule would be preferable.

92. The proposed reclassifications of posts, other than that referred to in paragraph 4.20, were questioned by several delegations and supported by others.

Reservation

93. One delegation expressed its objection to the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

94. The Committee welcomed the programming of activities under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 following approval for the first time of the related programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

95. The Committee noted however that no priorities were proposed among the activities programmed in this section.

96. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General keep the question of the organization of editorial services under review and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

97. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 5. Disarmament

98. At its 28th meeting, on 30 May 1991, the Committee considered section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

99. Several delegations, in registering their support and appreciation of the overall work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, expressed concern that the rate of real growth of 0.6 per cent did not properly reflect the high priority accorded to disarmament activities by the General Assembly. They expressed the hope that the implementation by the Department of its mandated activities would not be hindered by such a modest growth. Other delegations expressed the view that the proposed rate of real growth was too high.

100. Some delegations were of the view that continuing efforts to rationalize the work of the First Committee should, in turn, lead to a reduction in substantive servicing requirements by the Department.

101. Some delegations in expressing doubts about the continued relevance of the World Disarmament Campaign, questioned the scope of the disarmament publications programme given the changes in the international climate. Several other delegations expressed their support for the World Disarmament Campaign. Several delegations stressed the need for adequate resources to be allocated to it so that it might achieve its objectives.

102. One delegation expressed concern about the backlog in the publication of the Disarmament Yearbook and the periodical, Disarmament and called upon the Secretariat to eliminate the backlog. That delegation also sought assurances that adequate resources were included in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 for the production of disarmament publications in all official languages of the United Nations.

103. Some delegations expressed strong support for increased resources to be allocated for regional activities on disarmament in general and for regional centres for peace and disarmament, in particular. Others did not share this view. In this regard, some delegations supported the creation of a new post for the centre at Kathmandu while some others felt that the creation of a new post at this centre was not justified.

104. Some delegations questioned the justification for the reclassification proposed for the administrative officer of the Department, while others expressed their support.

105. Several delegations expressed appreciation of the disarmament fellowships programme and suggested that the Committee might review the programme with a view to strengthening this activity. Another delegation questioned the costs associated with this programme.

106. While some delegations queried the continuing subvention made from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), several other delegations supported the Institute and its work. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the subvention to UNIDIR should be of a recurrent nature. Other delegations queried whether intensive efforts had been made to attract more voluntary contributions for the Institute.

Conclusion and recommendation

107. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 6. Special Political Questions; Regional Cooperation; Trusteeship and Decolonization

108. At its 29th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

109. A number of delegations expressed the view that the activities to be carried out under programme 37, subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes, did not belong to section 6. Such activities were very similar to those programmed under Section 30, Disaster relief operations, and section 29A, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Fragmentation of activities and responsibilities for the implementation of programmes should be avoided.

110. Some delegations questioned the programme of work and the requirements requested for subprogrammes 1 and 2. This comment applied to the Trusteeship Council and to the Committee of 24. It was noted that within the last Trust Territory, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, only Palau remains under the Trusteeship system. Some delegations underlined the importance of subprogrammes 1 and 2 for the process of decolonization of the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories; in this context the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly were stressed.

111. A number of delegations also requested information about the number of meetings anticipated for the Trusteeship Council.

112. With regard to the proposed conversion of 12 posts from temporary to established status, several delegations were not convinced of the merits of the proposal since, in their view, the activities in this section were transitory. These delegations stated that sufficient justification had not been provided for the proposed conversion.

113. Different views were expressed on the proposed redeployment of a D-2 post from subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and Decolonization, to subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes. Several delegations supported this proposal. Others expressed doubts on its justification. Still others indicated that it might negatively affect the implementation of subprogramme 2. A number of delegations indicated that more resources should be allocated to subprogramme 4.

114. The view was expressed that, in the light of the phased decrease in the workload of the Transitional Unit through the expiration of the residual programmes of Namibia in 1994, a corresponding decrease in resources should have been made.

Conclusions and recommendations

115. The Committee recommended that the results of the review requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/248, section B, paragraph 13, on the functions of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

116. The Committee recommended that the programme narrative of section 6 should be revised so as to read at the end of paragraph 6.18 "in pursuance of resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations organs." The Committee further recommended that the number and volume of activities should be adjusted to take account of the requirements necessary to fulfil those decisions.

117. The Committee noted the proposed resource allocation between subprogrammes in this section and recommended that the Secretary-General should review this proposed allocation in the light of recent developments and recommended that, in order to assist the General Assembly, revised estimates be submitted to the forty-sixth session. Any proposals in that regard should not have a negative impact on the Organization's ability to carry out mandated activities under subprogramme 2, both in respect of the remaining territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and in respect of the trusteeship system.

118. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 subject to the above conclusions.

Section 7. Elimination of apartheid

119. At its 29th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

120. Support was expressed for the programme in view of the importance of its objectives. Some delegations believed it did not take into account the positive developments in South Africa, particularly legal actions to abolish the system of apartheid.

121. Some delegations questioned the proposed reclassifications of two posts in view of the positive developments towards the elimination of apartheid and the possibility of a new constitution for South Africa, which would greatly reduce the involvement of the United Nations. Several delegations emphasized the enormous obstacles which impede the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic system in South Africa. They emphasized that until there was an irreversible change, the United Nations had an important role to play.

122. One delegation queried the number of grants and the activities financed in relation to the elimination of apartheid, which were approved or engaged in by the Special Committee against Apartheid during 1990. Several delegations were of the view that the grants and activities of the Special Committee contributed greatly in mobilizing international support for the campaign against apartheid.

Conclusions and recommendations

123. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 8. International Court of Justice

124. At its 20th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

125. The view was expressed that, since there had been recent increases in the staffing of the Court, the request for a new post at the P-3 level should have been met through redeployment from other areas within the section.

126. Since the reference was made to the requirements for external printing and binding indicated in paragraph 8.19, the Committee was informed that such requirements were for publications in English and French and that the question of publishing the documents of the Court in the other official languages of the United Nations would be addressed in the report requested by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

Conclusions and recommendations

127. The Committee recalled that neither the activities of the Court nor those of the Registry were part of the medium-term plan. The Committee further recalled that regulation 15.1 of Article XV of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations provides that "the programme budget of the International Court of Justice shall be prepared by the Court, in consultation with the Secretary-General. These programme budget proposals shall be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as he may deem desirable."

128. The Committee took note of section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 9. Legal activities

129. At its 21st meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

130. General support was expressed for the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs, in particular the legal services provided in connection with peace-keeping activities, the servicing of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and efforts to catch up with the backlog in publications. Particular interest was expressed in training, which, it was felt, should be undertaken not only to promote the adoption of legal texts but to develop national legal capabilities.

131. Some delegations queried the justifications for the proposed reclassifications and sought additional information in terms of workloads.

132. Some delegations were of the view that efforts to rationalize the work of the Sixth Committee should lead to reduced requirements for substantive services. They further questioned the continuing validity of the legislative mandate for certain activities. It was generally recognized, however, that the agenda of the Sixth Committee and the working groups of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) were determined by Member States.

133. Several delegations were concerned about the feasibility and potential cost of the proposal to upgrade the United Nations Treaty Information System but would support cost-effective measures to improve access by Member States to treaty information. It was noted that technological innovations were being planned in cooperation with other offices concerned, in particular the Department of Conference Services.

134. Some delegations queried the usefulness of late issuance of publications, especially those of interest to only a small user community, and raised the question of the possibility of charging user fees.

135. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made by the Office of Legal Affairs to ensure the balanced presentation in the work of the Office of the different legal systems of the world.

Conclusions and recommendations

136. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 10. Law of the Sea and Ocean Affairs

137. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

138. A number of delegations expressed interest in the progress made in promoting the wider acceptance and uniform application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Support was expressed, in particular, for assistance to developing countries in maximizing benefits from the Convention.

139. A number of delegations questioned the premise, as stated in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.5 of the proposed programme budget, that the Convention would enter into force soon and consequently that the biennium 1992-1993 would be a transitional period.

140. General concern was expressed over the use of consultants. To some delegations it appeared that consultants were being used as a substitute for staff resources. To some delegations, which did not object to the use of consultants for specialized studies in areas where the Secretariat lacked specialized expertise, it was important that consultants should be selected on a wide geographical basis. To other delegations, the resources proposed were an indication that the recommendation concerning consultants made by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations was being forgotten.

141. Some delegations were of the view that the number of publications programmed was too large and that the resources were being spent on small, specialized audiences. Other delegations questioned the practical effect of the information gathering activities in subprogramme 2.

142. Different views were expressed on the proposed reclassification of a post at the Professional level.

143. Some delegations stated that operational activities should be funded exclusively from extrabudgetary resources.

Reservation

144. One delegation expressed a reservation on the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and its financing under the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

145. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

146. At its 38th and 46th meetings, on 4 and 8 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

147. Some delegations expressed support for the activities of the Office of the Director-General and were of the view that the resources available to the Office were limited in light of the extensive responsibilities and mandates assigned to it.

148. A number of delegations regretted that the format of section 11A did not follow that of other sections and expressed their concern that the programme narrative did not clearly define the activities the Office intended to undertake during the biennium 1992-1993 in order to accomplish the objectives of the medium-term plan.

149. While recognizing the importance of coordination functions, some delegations pointed out that the Office was also responsible for providing the impetus to and direction of the economic and social development activities of the United Nations. In this connection, some delegations drew particular attention to the fact that while dramatic economic and political transformations in the East had changed East-West relations, the North-South situation continued to require urgent attention by the international community and by the Office of the Director-General.

150. Some delegations stressed the importance of the work of the Task Force responsible for stimulating and monitoring the activities of the United Nations system in the field of mitigation of consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident and expressed concern with its uncertain financial status.

151. Some delegations expressed their concern that the programme narrative of the Office did not specify how the Office proposed to provide innovative

responses to emerging trends or how it proposed to direct and guide the economic and social development activities throughout the system. It was regretted that the expected results of the activities in the proposed programme budget were not clear.

152. Some delegations noted that programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development), was included in section 11A of the proposed programme budget essentially for presentation purposes and that the Department of Public Information and the Economic Commission for Africa had full responsibility for those functions falling within their respective mandates.

153. Some delegations pointed out that the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 had not yet taken place and would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

154. Some delegations expressed their concern that the Office of the Director-General and the Department of Public Information were to be allocated more resources than the Economic Commission for Africa. Many delegations were of the view that the proposals for action were inadequate and noted that revisions would be made to reflect their concerns.

Conclusions and recommendations

155. The Committee recommended that a separate and identifiable unit be established within the Office of the Director-General to undertake those activities that fell within its responsibility as proposed under programme 45 of the medium-term plan.

156. The Committee recommended that adequate resources be provided for the economic recovery and development of Africa, commensurate with the high priority accorded to it by the General Assembly.

157. The Committee also recommended that the various activities provided for under programme 45 of the medium-term plan be implemented on the basis of an innovative approach, in a balanced and coordinated manner, taking into account the responsibility of both the international community and the African countries as mentioned in the pertinent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the critical economic situation and development of Africa.

158. The Committee further recommended that these activities might possibly be amended when the medium-term plan was revised in the light of decisions which the General Assembly might take at its forty-sixth session after final evaluation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

159. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the above recommendations and to decisions of the Economic and Social Council and on the understanding that the regular budget resources requested for this section by the Secretary-General would be adequate, with the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1. Mobilization of resources

160. During the biennium 1992-1993, the subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Promoting the translation of the commitment of the international community into concrete action, including increased financial flows to assist Africa;

(b) Ensuring adequate resources for the implementation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development and monitoring its follow-up through intersecretariat as well as intergovernmental mechanisms;

(c) Promoting specific action to help African countries regarding conditionalities associated with resource flows to Africa and to support economic reforms in the region;

(d) Promoting international efforts towards the improvement of commodity issues, including markets, taking into account long-term trends;

(e) Mobilizing resources for diversification of the African economy;

(f) Strengthening of the efforts of the African Governments to improve their own economic policy.

Activities

International cooperation

161. To carry out, in close cooperation with the organizations of the system concerned, a study on the overall resource flows to Africa so as to facilitate efforts to mobilize additional resources for African economic recovery and development.

162. To organize two annual meetings with representatives of donor countries in New York and to carry out three missions to donor countries, including meetings with development assistance agencies with a view to securing increased official development assistance for African countries.

163. To consult UNDP and the World Bank annually, with a view to promoting and enhancing round tables and consultative group meetings in order to make them more effective in mobilizing resources for African countries.

164. To coordinate the support provided by the United Nations to African countries, at their request, in the preparation for round tables and consultative group meetings.

165. To provide inputs to meetings of relevant international financial institutions and other relevant meetings and, where appropriate, participate in such meetings with a view to promoting greater financial flows, including solutions to the debt problems of African countries.

166. To mobilize resources for activities envisaged in subprogramme 3 (The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa).

167. To cooperate with relevant non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations involved in efforts to address African economic recovery and development, particularly the Global Coalition for Africa and the Africa Leadership Forum.

Meetings

168. To organize, in close cooperation with the international organizations and corporations concerned, two subregional meetings to promote foreign direct investment in Africa.

Inter-agency cooperation

169. To ensure adequate resources for the implementation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, and monitor its follow-up through intersecretariat as well as intergovernmental mechanisms.

170. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to promote the implementation of recommendations relating to African commodity problems, in particular the diversification of African economies.

171. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to work for the full implementation of the provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in particular provisions relating to resource flows to these countries.

Subprogramme 2. Monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects

172. During the biennium, this subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Analysing financial flows, multilateral or bilateral, available or required for African economic recovery and development and their relationships to domestic economic policies;

(b) Studying the problems encountered in the implementation of specific activities designed to address the economic and social emergency situation in Africa.

Activities

Inter-agency cooperation

173. To arrange and provide substantive and technical support to meetings of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force which will convene approximately eight sessions during the biennium to ensure the coherent implementation by the organizations of the system of decisions of the General Assembly and other relevant intergovernmental bodies relating to African economic recovery and development.

Meetings

174. To arrange two inter-agency meetings on how the United Nations system can contribute to African efforts towards the economic integration of Africa.

175. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to convene an expert group meeting to assist African countries in setting up mechanisms for the implementation of the African Charter for Popular Participation and Transformation.

Parliamentary services

176. To coordinate and ensure that the organizations of the system provide inputs to the reports on activities of the system relating to assistance in the economic recovery and development of Africa.

177. To report annually to the General Assembly on progress made in the monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes for African economic recovery and development.

Subprogramme 3. The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

178. During the biennium 1992-1993, the subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Raising international awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa;

(b) Providing information on the efforts and reforms - both political and economic - being undertaken by African countries to revive or enhance economic and social growth, as well as on the vital role of external resources and actions in support of African recovery;

(c) Providing information support for the activities listed under subprogrammes 1 and 2 above.

Activities

(a) Publications

(i) African Recovery periodical

179. African Recovery shall be published on a quarterly basis in English and French (24,000 copies of each issue in English and 8,000 in French). It is intended primarily for the media, the non-governmental community and other opinion makers in academic and research institutions, government officials and the like in Africa and internationally. The periodical will report on important new developments, ideas, studies and conferences relating to African recovery; produce carefully researched articles on resource flows (including debt), commodities and trade; produce reports on selected African countries, and discuss the policies and programmes they are pursuing to revive economic growth; and highlight the role played by donor countries and the United Nations system in support of Africa, the impediments to recovery and so forth.

(ii) Briefing papers

180. Eight briefing papers shall be produced on specific themes of special concern to Africa targeted at the specialized media and opinion makers in academic and research institutions and government offices (8,000 copies

each). Briefing papers on African debt, African least developed countries and African population policies have already been produced. For the biennium 1992-1993, briefing papers will be prepared on regional cooperation and integration; resource flows and debt; trade, commodities and diversification; mobilizing foreign direct investment; and the challenge of food security and self-sufficiency, among other subjects.

(iii) Press kits

181. Press kits will be produced to enhance world-wide press coverage on important United Nations reports on Africa. Two will be produced during the biennium 1992-1993.

(b) Mass media promotion

(iv) Television and radio programmes

182. To work closely with the Department of Public Information to produce radio and television programmes. Major features will be produced in 1992-1993 for both radio and television, highlighting the decisions and goals of the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, as well as steps taken by African Governments and the international community.

(v) Journalists travelling seminars

183. To organize two seminars to enable senior donor-country and African journalists to see first hand the efforts being made by African countries to initiate or accelerate growth, the domestic and external constraints to growth and the efforts of the international community.

(vi) Coverage of African conferences

184. To provide briefs for international journalists with a view to encouraging their attendance at conferences and meetings relating to African economic recovery and development.

(vii) Articles for major media

185. To write and submit at least six articles for major international newspapers highlighting the concerns of African countries, the steps taken by them to promote their economic development and the efforts of the international community.

(c) Liaison

(viii) Media and other groups

186. To organize and maintain regular contacts and liaison with media and other important target groups, such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and academic institutions in order to enlist support for actions being undertaken or that need to be undertaken. In this context, to ensure that African economic recovery and development is a topic

for the meetings of the non-governmental organizations envisaged by the Department of Public Information in subprogramme 2 (Information services) of programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan.

Section 11B. World Food Council

187. At its 30th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

188. A number of delegations noted that the activities proposed within the single subprogramme, Coordination of policies and action to combat world hunger, were similar to those included in previous programme budgets. It was pointed out that the central objective established by the 1974 World Food Conference, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, had not been attained. Doubts were expressed as to the capacity of the World Food Council (WFC) and its secretariat to contribute effectively to the achievement of such objective. Other delegations stressed that the subprogramme deserved full support.

189. Several delegations questioned the requested requirements for consultants and contractual services, as well as office supplies and computer equipment. Some other delegations expressed their surprise at the high rental cost for the office space of WFC.

Conclusions and recommendations

190. The Committee recommended that WFC should review its activities, so that they would be more closely geared to the achievement of the objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

191. The Committee also recommended that the low priority designations should be deleted from the work of the ad hoc expert groups under 2(b) and that low priority be assigned to all information activities under 3(a) and (b).

192. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 11C. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

193. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 11C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

194. A number of delegations stressed the importance and high priority they attached to the preparation of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In this regard, they expressed their support for the activities of the Conference secretariat.

195. Several delegations expressed concern that the summary reference made to General Assembly resolution 44/228 did not reflect all the issues covered by the resolution and included issues which were not in that resolution.

196. Some delegations expressed concern that the provision made for the Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries Participating in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its preparatory process did not seem sufficient.

197. Some delegations questioned the need for the provision of 11 staff members to remain for the full 12 months in 1992. Others found the proposals well justified to ensure the effective initial stage of the follow-up to the Conference. Some delegations noted that the provision was based upon an assumption and subject to change in accordance with any possible decision by the Conference or the General Assembly.

198. Some delegations questioned the timeliness of the consultancy work in 1992-1993 contained in paragraph 11C.7, since the final session of the Preparatory Committee would be held in early 1992. Others stressed the time constraints and workload of the Conference secretariat and the need for consultancy support in this regard.

199. Some delegations were of the view that the provisions made for consultants and travel of staff were too high and requested clarification on how the provisions would be spent. Additional information has been provided by the secretariat on this subject.

Conclusions and recommendations

200. The Committee recommended that paragraph 11C.2 should be changed to include a reference to General Assembly resolution 44/228 and that the remaining part of the paragraph should be deleted.

201. The Committee recommended that appropriate revisions should be made to the medium-term plan and proposals for the 1992-1993 budget, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should be considered during the thirty-second resumed session of CPC.

202. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of section 11C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 11D. Regional Commissions New York Office

203. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

204. Several delegations questioned the separate presentation of section 11D and felt that, given its size, it could be incorporated within another section of the programme budget.

205. Some delegations felt that the activities under section 11D could be included under the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, section 11A.

206. One delegation questioned the level and number of staff in this Office.

Conclusion and recommendation

207. The Committee took note of section 11D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 11E. Overall policy-making organs (Economic and social activities)

208. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 11E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

209. The Committee noted the redistribution of resources to the various other sections of the proposed programme budget resulting from the abolition of this section.

Section 12. Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

210. At its 31st and 32nd meetings, on 1 June 1991, the Committee considered section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

211. Some delegations noted the difficulty encountered in identifying outputs in this section, while others recognized that the activities proposed were, by their nature, difficult to programme. Some delegations expressed concern that technical cooperation activities were being spread too thin.

212. Some delegations were of the opinion that activities related to technical cooperation should be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Other delegations felt that the level of regular budget financing for these activities should be increased in order to ensure that they were placed on a sound and assured footing. Some other delegations referred to the fact that collection of

assessed contributions was less encouraging than collection of pledged voluntary contributions.

213. One delegation noted with concern that the activities of the Environment programme were not treated separately under Sectoral Advisory Services. The same delegation also expressed regrets over the fact that no resource growth was proposed for these activities which were aimed at assisting developing countries.

214. Some delegations stressed that the technical cooperation among developing countries aspect in the subprogramme on sectoral advisory services should be emphasized.

215. Some delegations queried the interfacing of these activities with the United Nations Development Programme and sought assurance that there would be no overlapping and duplication of efforts in this regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

216. The Committee recommended that activities related to the Environment programme should be included separately under Sectoral Advisory Services.

217. The Committee took note of section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 13. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

218. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings on 1 and 3 June, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget of the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

219. Some delegations stressed the importance of the work carried out by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and noted that it provided a global perspective and an integrated approach to economic and social development issues. They also noted that the Department provided important services to various intergovernmental bodies and reaffirmed the need for concise and analytical reports.

220. Some delegations felt the need for additional efforts to optimize the presentation and dissemination of DIESA publications throughout the United Nations system, for the benefit of relevant organizations, organs and services.

221. Some delegations emphasized that the Committee should be informed of any programmatic changes that might result from the ongoing process of reform of the economic and social sectors. Such reforms might have implications for the work of the Department. An example was the General Assembly's decision at its resumed forty-fifth session that the Economic and Social Council would hold its sessions in alternate years in New York and Geneva, a decision which might affect the resources for travel of the Department.

222. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the proposed redeployment of resources from executive direction and management and from programme support to the substantive programmes.

223. With regard to the programme on global development issues and policies, a number of delegations pointed out that studies on the political changes in East-West relations should include economic and social aspects and should also address the overall implications of those changes for developing countries and the world economy.

224. Some delegations mentioned the need for collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa on the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery.

225. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the energy and natural resources programme and suggested that it should receive a greater share of the requested resources.

226. Some delegations took note of the fact that the non-recurrent resources proposed for the population programme were for the preparations of an international meeting on population to be convened in 1994 and that the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, which met earlier in 1991, would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session. The Committee was informed that two trust funds had been established for the convening of the international meeting, one for general contributions and one specifically for the participation of least developed countries, and that more specific information would be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Some delegations noted that the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had been appointed Secretary-General of the proposed meeting and that the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had been appointed Deputy Secretary-General.

227. Some delegations noted that the large proportion of extrabudgetary resources for activities in the statistics programme was due to the operational activities carried out on behalf of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. A number of delegations emphasized the need for strengthening DIESA activities in the field of environmental statistics.

228. A number of delegations stressed the importance of designating priorities, ensuring, at the same time, that the priority designation of activities funded by extrabudgetary resources reflected the priorities accorded by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

229. The Committee expressed support for the work of the Department carried out under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 and recommended the following specific revisions to the programme narrative:

(a) Paragraph 13.13: in the sixth line, insert the words "economic and" before the word "political";

(b) Paragraph 13.13: in the seventh line, after the words "East-West relations" insert the words "as well as their impact on the growth of the world economy, in particular, on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international cooperation";

(c) Paragraph 13.14: in the first line, insert after the words "resources to" the words "and from".

230. The Committee also recommended that the low priority designation should be deleted from the list of parliamentary documentation under subprogramme 3 of the energy and natural resources programme, and from the list of published material under subprogramme 3 of the population programme.

231. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 14. Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

232. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 3 June, the Committee considered section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

233. Some delegations expressed concern that the rate of real growth of 0.1 per cent did not properly reflect the importance of technical cooperation activities for developing countries and felt that the regular budget resources for this section should be increased. Other delegations noted that the Department provided only a small share of the considerable resources allocated to technical cooperation activities for developing countries by organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

234. Several delegations noted with concern the reduction in the level of extrabudgetary resources for 1992-1993. In the same context, some delegations queried the implications resulting from changes in the system of support costs reimbursement for the activities of the Department should decision 90/26 be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme Governing Council and adopted by the General Assembly.

235. Several delegations felt that, under the Energy programme, subprogramme 4, Energy resources assessment and exploration, and subprogramme 6, Development and transfer of technology for exploiting critical energy resources, should be accorded high priority.

236. Some delegations stressed the importance of coordination of activities among the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system.

237. Some delegations felt that the programme narrative of subprogramme 2, Water resources development and management, under the Natural resources programme, should include the question of the environmental impact of water resources development.

Conclusion and recommendation

238. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

239. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 6 and 7 June, the Committee considered section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

240. Several delegations expressed concern with the abolition of two posts and a negative 0.5 per cent rate of growth which could have an adverse effect on programme implementation. Some delegations said this was not consonant with the priorities established with regard to the development of developing countries. It was felt that the growth rate should have been 0.9 per cent. Several delegations expressed concern that recommendations of the Working Party of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the medium-term plan and the programme budget were not taken into account during the preparation of the section.

241. Other delegations welcomed the overall decrease in resources and reduction of posts.

242. Some delegations were concerned about the apparent duplication of activities between UNCTAD and other United Nations entities. Several others expressed the view that UNCTAD and other United Nations bodies dealing with matters of international trade had specific responsibilities in accordance with their mandates. Some delegations stated that in the context of restructuring of the economic and social sectors, a review of overlapping and complementary activities in the Secretariat should be undertaken.

243. Some delegations welcomed the proportionate distribution of resources between administration and management and the programme of work. Other delegations were concerned that redeployment of a D-1 post to executive direction and management from the commodities subprogramme would be to the detriment of substantive activities.

244. Several delegations agreed with the suppression of subprogramme 5, Trade among countries having different economic and social systems, and supported the proposed reorientation of activities relating to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time a number of delegations stressed the need for further readjustment of UNCTAD's programme of activities in order to ensure effective consideration of the issues of East-South trade cooperation, as well as integration of countries with economies in transition in international trade.

245. Several delegations expressed concern with the negative real growth of resources allocated to the transfer of technology, and called for a strengthening of activities in this area. Some delegations questioned the reference to a United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology in the absence of any General Assembly mandate for such a conference.

Reservation

246. One delegation expressed a reservation concerning the activities under subprogramme 15.2, Assistance to the Palestinian people.

Conclusion and recommendation

247. The Committee recalled that the decision regarding the proposed reduction of posts under section 15 fell within the competence of the General Assembly.

248. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 16. International Trade Centre

249. At its 43rd meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 16 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

250. Several delegations endorsed the goals and programme of work of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and noted that the rate of real growth of 1 per cent was acceptable. Some delegations felt that the format should be improved to provide for greater transparency. Information requested by a number of delegations on the level of non-recurrent sources was provided.

251. It was noted that the ITC's projected income from parking for the biennium 1992-1993 exceeded the anticipated level of income from the sale of its publications.

252. Some delegations noted with concern the extraordinarily high rent of premises and maintenance of office equipment (para. 16.29), which considerably raises the level of support cost.

Conclusion and recommendation

253. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 17. United Nations Environment Programme

254. At its 35th and 39th meetings on 3 and 5 June, the Committee considered section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

255. Some delegations noted that although the environment was one of the five areas referred to in General Assembly resolution 45/255, the proposed growth rate was modest. Several delegations noted the significant growth anticipated under extrabudgetary resources and, while welcoming such increases, expressed concern about the proliferation of trust funds.

256. Some delegations felt that it would be more appropriate to include the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that were related to the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance under subprogramme 9, "Environmental assessment" and not under subprogramme 6, "Human Settlements and the environment" as proposed in the budget.

257. Some delegations questioned the fact that the programme narrative in part C did not allow for the provision of conference and interpretation services to the Permanent Representative Committee of UNEP whose official status has been required by the UNEP Executive Body in 1987. They recommended that it be included. Others expressed concern that such a decision might have substantial and unnecessary financial implications.

258. A view was expressed that the activities under subprogramme 2 were too broad and general in nature. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the increase of travel expenditures for UNEP staff; these delegations also expressed concern about the relatively low percentage of total regular budget resources for the programme of work in comparison with expenditures on executive direction and management.

259. The proportion of high-level posts was noted and further efforts to streamline these high-level posts was suggested.

Conclusions and recommendations

260. The Committee stressed the importance of international environmental cooperation and of UNEP activities in this area.

261. The Committee took note of the information provided by the UNEP representative that at its sixteenth session the Governing Council had decided that work on the establishment of a world environment academy should be suspended.

262. The Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the programme narrative of section 17 because the UNEP Governing Council had decided that the special session should be for three days instead of five, as it was proposed in the budget, and to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

263. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should consider, on the advice of ACABQ, the practice with regard to the inclusion in this section of conference-servicing costs relating to the intergovernmental bodies of UNEP, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the overall issue of conference servicing relating to United Nations intergovernmental bodies convened in Nairobi.

264. The Committee reconfirmed all the recommendations contained in paragraphs 185 to 192 of the report of its thirtieth session.

265. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, on the understanding that all non-mandated activities would be excluded from the programme narrative.

Section 18. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

266. At its 35th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee considered section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

267. Several delegations noted the importance to the developing countries of the Organization's work in the field of science and technology and expressed concern at the reduction in the overall level of resources under section 18, particularly those for consultants and ad hoc expert groups, and the possible impact on the implementation of the proposed work programme.

268. There was general agreement on the priority accorded to subprogramme 1. Endogenous capacity-building, although some delegations felt that the other subprogrammes could have also been given priority. As regards the format and presentation of section 18, several delegations commented that it would have been useful to show the cost of executive direction and management and programme support separately and that the section could have benefited from more precise details on the programmed activities.

269. Some delegations raised the question of overlapping and duplication of work within the system in the area of science and technology and referred particularly to the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Other delegations were of the opinion that the Centre is properly performing its work in the policy field, which is clearly different to UNESCO's operational activities. It was noted that the ongoing review of the economic and social sectors included the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development.

Conclusion and recommendation

270. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 18 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

271. At its 32nd meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

272. Some delegations felt that the Global Strategy to the year 2000 was insufficiently reflected in the programme of work. Some delegations were of the view that the introductory narratives to subprogrammes 4 and 5 were inadequate.

273. A number of delegations questioned the legislative basis for activities relating to women and sustainable development. It was further pointed out

that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was the unit responsible for the programme on the Advancement of Women.

274. Some delegations welcomed the clarity with which the activities were presented, especially their relationship with consultancy funds.

275. Several delegations sought information on the training activities included in the programme, and were specifically concerned with the types of participants involved, the method of their selection, the follow-up of training results and the means of coordinating the activities. Some delegations emphasized the importance of group training and the benefits derived from it, and commended the Centre for Human Settlements for its efforts in this field.

Conclusions and recommendations

276. The Committee recommended that the low priority designation under paragraph 19.18.1 (a) should be deleted.

277. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 20. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

278. At its 35th and 36th meetings, on 3 and 4 June, the Committee considered section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

279. A number of delegations commended the Centre on Transnational Corporations for its work and expressed support for the activities programmed in section 20 for the biennium 1992-1993.

280. Some delegations questioned the high priority assigned to subprogramme 1. It was suggested that subprogramme 3 should be accorded high priority. Other delegations supported the priority designation under the section as proposed.

281. Several delegations expressed concern at the possible duplication of activities of the Centre in the area of environment with those programmed in the context of the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and suggested that this issue should be closely monitored and coordinated. The view was expressed that the activities relating to environment could be better handled by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

282. Some delegations noted the large number of publications of the Centre on Transnational Corporations and suggested that the Centre's activities should be focused on fields where it has a clear comparative advantage.

283. Some delegations indicated that the title of subprogramme 2 did not adequately reflect the state of events and current development trends in the activities of transnational corporations. They also had difficulty with the concept contained in the terminology "liability of parent companies for subsidiaries" relating to publications programmed under subprogramme 2.

284. Several delegations supported the level of resources assigned to the programme and its distribution among subprogrammes. Different views were expressed with regard to the proposed reclassifications of posts. Some delegations questioned the rationale for the proposals and indicated that they were not justified in terms of the volume and nature of the work involved, while other delegations supported the reclassifications as proposed.

Conclusion and recommendation

285. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 21. Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

286. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 4 June, the Committee considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

287. Several delegations stressed the importance of the social aspects of development and expressed their support for the activities proposed under section 21. Several delegations were of the view that the growing recognition of social development issues was not adequately reflected in terms of the resources allocated to the section. The view was expressed that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be strengthened in the context of the review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues under the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Doubts were raised about the adequacy of the resources proposed for the implementation of the activities related to the Year of the Family and the preparation of the World Conference on Women, taking into account, in particular, the small size of the Division for the Advancement of Women at Vienna.

288. Several delegations supported the distribution of the resources among programmes and subprogrammes. Other delegations commented on the relatively small proportion of extrabudgetary resources for financing activities under the section and suggested that efforts should be undertaken by the Secretariat to increase them.

289. Some delegations said that activities relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination against Women, under subprogramme 1 of programme C, should be assigned a high priority. Questions were raised about the low priority designation for specific ad hoc group activities and publications programmed under subprogramme 1 of programme B and subprogrammes 1 and 3 of programme C.

290. Some delegations questioned the use of the consultancy work (para. 21.23) which included the policy issue, selection of targets on ageing for the Decade 1992-2001.

291. Some delegations expressed the view that section 21 was still the proper section where activities and related resources for the preparation of the report on the World Social Situation should be programmed.

292. Different views were expressed on the proposed conversion of posts from temporary to established under programme C.

293. Several delegations expressed their support for Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/16 of 30 May 1991, whereby the Council requested the Secretary-General to add specific recommendations, within the overall level of the budget of the Organization, to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to strengthen and rationalize the resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in order to enable it better to fulfil its mandates and carry out its activities in the social and related fields and for the advancement of women.

Conclusions and recommendations

294. The Committee took note of the statement and assurances made by the Secretariat that the report requested in General Assembly decision 45/428 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

295. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 22. International Drug Control

296. At its 38th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

297. Members of the Committee in their comments supported the programme of work of the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme and looked forward to the completion of the ongoing review process and the establishment of a fully integrated structure. A number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with the clarity of presentation of this section.

298. One delegation commented on subprogrammes 2 and 6 specifically as regards the legitimate uses of opiates and the need to establish a global information system on world-wide trends and consequences of illicit traffic, with special attention to transit States.

299. Another delegation noted that a large number of publications were being planned and pointed out that there should be no overlap or duplication with

the work of other entities. In addition, that delegation felt that, with the new consolidated structure, the requirements for ad hoc expert groups would be lessened.

300. Some delegations were of the opinion that extrabudgetary resources should be distributed among subprogrammes following the proportions proposed for the regular budget resources, in order to reflect the approved priorities and integral scope of this section.

Conclusions and recommendations

301. The Committee recommended the addition of the following words to paragraph 22.15 relating to subprogramme 6:

> "(d) to devising ways and means of increasing access to opiates for legitimate medical purposes, particularly among developing countries."

302. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 23. Economic Commission for Africa

303. At its 40th, 41st and 42nd meetings on 5 and 6 June, the Committee considered section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

304. Several delegations expressed their support for the range of activities proposed under section 23 and for the related resources. Other delegations felt that there was excessive fragmentation of the programmes and efforts should be made to consolidate a number of activities. The view was also expressed that a number of the activities, in particular those proposed under subprogrammes 5 and 11, fell within the purview of other organizations of the United Nations system and that a degree of duplication and overlapping therefore existed.

305. The Committee noted the priority designation among activities as proposed under the section. The view was expressed that subprogramme 5 should reflect, in terms of specific output, the outcome of the 1990 Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris and that subprogramme 9 should include the objectives of the Bamako Convention adopted in January 1991 by the African States.

306. Several delegations emphasized the important role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in promoting subregional cooperation and integration in Africa and supported the activities proposed for the MULPOCs under subprogramme 2. Other delegations were of the view that the role of the MULPOCs was marginal and that the activities programmed for them would have limited effect. Some delegations drew attention to the fact that the proposed increase of resources for the MULPOCs was at variance with the intentions expressed by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

307. Some delegations supported the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and its role in training national personnel of African States. They accepted the proposed arrangements in providing IDEP with financial resources to ensure its stable functioning in the biennium 1992-1993. Several delegations were of the view that the United Nations regular budget should assume responsibility for funding IDEP on a permanent basis. Other delegations felt that the activities of IDEP, being of an operational nature, should be financed from alternative sources, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

308. Several delegations were concerned that many activities were heavily dependent on extrabudgetary resources. Some delegations expressed concern on the anticipated decline of financial support from UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and suggested that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should try to remedy the situation.

309. The view was expressed that the late issuance of the proposed programme budget document for section 23 prevented its detailed review.

Conclusions and recommendations

310. The Committee emphasized the role of the MULPOCs, in providing technical support to subregional economic groupings. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen the functioning of the MULPOCs to enable them to carry out effectively their mandate as indicated in the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation report (E/AC.51/1991/3).

311. The Committee stressed the importance of evaluation as an effective tool for monitoring the programme performance and effectiveness of ECA. It recommended that the Secretary-General should make proposals to strengthen appropriately this function within ECA to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in the light of resolution 44/201 B and in accordance with the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation.

312. The Committee noted the proposals to redeploy resources away from social sectors within the ECA programme. It recommended that appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that there was no adverse impact in the programme delivery in this sector.

313. The Committee stressed the need to ensure the predictability, adequacy and timeliness of extrabudgetary resources available to the ECA programme.

314. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 24. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

315. At its 40th meeting on 5 June, the Commission considered section 24 of the proposed programmed budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

316. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the role that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had played in the economic and social development of the region. While recognizing that the General Assembly had not recommended any criteria for determining the level of resources to be allocated to each regional commission, or indeed among programmes, some delegations expressed concern about what they considered to be the relatively low level of resources proposed for ESCAP. Some other delegations had reservations about the proposed increase in resources for ESCAP.

317. One delegation stated that the low level of resources for ESCAP was not acceptable, considering that the activities undertaken by ESCAP covered a region which included more than half the world's population.

318. One delegation questioned the effectiveness of the many high priority designations. The Committee noted, however, that at its forty-seventh session ESCAP had approved the priority designations at the subprogramme level and that the designation of priorities at the output level was tentative at this stage. The Committee further noted that ESCAP's proposals would be reviewed by the Commission at its forty-eighth session in 1992.

319. The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts made to redeploy resources from executive management and support services to the substantive programmes and noted that resources had been redeployed among some subprogrammes in order to achieve the objectives of the medium-term plan. At the same time, the Committee expressed concern that a major portion of the increased resources was for programme support, but noted that it was for the replacement of the central computer system which would ultimately facilitate the work of the substantive programmes.

320. Several delegations questioned the legislative mandates relating to coordination between ESCAP and Indian Ocean Marine Affairs cooperation under subprogramme 9 relating to natural resources. Some other delegations emphasized the necessity and importance of enhancing further cooperation between ESCAP and Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation referred to above. However, this view was not shared by several other delegations. The Committee also noted that some of the increased resources proposed were for the new conference complex which was to become operational during 1992-1993.

321. A number of delegations questioned the usefulness and effectiveness of the large number of publications proposed.

322. A number of delegations expressed concern at the projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

323. The Committee expressed support for the work of ESCAP carried out under section 24 of the proposed programme budget.

324. The Committee recommended that ESCAP should continue its efforts to evaluate its publications.

325. The Committee also recommended that ESCAP should review its priority designation at the output level and urged that resource allocation among subprogrammes should be commensurate with their priority designations.

326. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 25. Economic Commission for Europe

327. At its 39th meeting, on 5 June, the Committee considered section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

328. Several delegations underlined the important role of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Europe in light of the current economic and social changes in the region and supported the activities of ECE as programmed under section 25. Some delegations commended the efforts undertaken by ECE in restructuring its activities in order to meet new challenges. Other delegations felt that the proposed programme of work in terms of its scope and composition did not adequately reflect the decisions taken by the Commission in 1990 with regard to the transformation of ECE activities towards priority areas.

329. Some delegations emphasized that further efforts for restructuring of ECE activities should be undertaken through redeployment of resources from low priority areas of activities, thus obviating the need for additional resources. Other delegations expressed the need for additional resources.

330. Some delegations suggested that more attention should be given to interregional cooperation between ECE and the other regional commissions and with specialized agencies and United Nations programmes. Some delegations proposed that the environmental aspects of the Chernobyl nuclear plant incident should be reflected within the Environment subprogramme.

331. Some delegations indicated that references under several subprogrammes to cooperation between ECE and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance should be deleted from the section due to the recent dissolution of that intergovernmental body.

332. Several delegations expressed the view that the level of resources proposed for the section was not justified. Other delegations supported the level of resource proposed. Some delegations expressed reservations regarding

the proposed increase of staff resources of the ECE secretariat, while other delegations supported the proposals.

333. Some delegations expressed their concern with regard to the absence of information on conference-servicing and other support costs provided to ECE by the United Nations Office at Geneva, indicating that this hampered comparison of the full ECE costs with those of other regional commissions and other secretariat units.

Conclusions and recommendation

334. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 26. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

335. At its 39th meeting, on 5 June, the Committee considered section 26 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

336. There was general satisfaction with the proposed work programme under section 26 and the manner in which its activities were presented in a well-structured and well-planned manner, reflecting the interests and meeting the priorities of the region. At the same time some delegations were concerned at the reduction in the total resources due to the anticipated decrease in extrabudgetary resource estimates. It was felt that lack of growth in some subprogrammes did not reflect the importance of the activities to be carried out, especially in those related to industry, science and technology (subprogramme 4).

337. A number of delegations stressed the importance of coordination, in particular with the Centre for Science and Technology. Views were also expressed on activities involving women and development, economic integration and cooperation, tourism, and public information. The usefulness and high quality of the publications of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was recognized. One delegation felt that more information could have been provided under Programme support.

Conclusions and recommendations

338. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Activities relating to economic integration and cooperation should be specifically mentioned in the introductory paragraph 26.28 under subprogramme 5, International trade and development finance; and

(b) Activities relating to tourism should be undertaken under subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

339. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narative of section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

340. At its 40th meeting on 5 June, the Committee considered section 27 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

341. Delegations noted that the section did not contain a programme narrative and that the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had been suspended owing to the situation in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

342. The Committee noted that the programme of work under section 27 would be prepared at a later stage.

Section 28. Human rights

343. At its 22nd, 23rd and 25th meetings on 28 and 29 May, the Committee considered section 28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

344. A number of delegations noted the recent increase in the workload mandated by the General Assembly and supported the programme of work of the Centre for Human Rights. Some delegations voiced approval of the 10.9 per cent rate of real growth proposed for section 28, while others pointed out that the need for additional staff should be met through redeployment from other areas of the Secretariat. Several delegations voiced disapproval at the significant rate of real growth proposed under this section, particularly since it was not included in the broad priority areas identified in General Assembly resolution 45/253. Other delegations did not share that view.

345. A number of delegations questioned the proposed redeployment of a D-1 post from Executive Direction and Management to the Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch and the proposal to establish a new D-2 level post for a Director and Deputy to the Head of the Centre for Human Rights. Several delegations requested information concerning the changes and development in the Centre for Human Rights staffing table since 1974. In addition, some delegations felt that the Centre should have a better geographical distribution in its overall staffing table.

346. The lack of supporting information on workload statistics was noted by several delegations.

347. One delegation queried the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus. The same delegation also queried the method of financing treaty bodies.

348. Some delegations noted with regret the absence of substantive activities related to racism and racial discrimination and apartheid.

Reservations

349. One delegation expressed its reservations on the following activities:

(a) The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories;

(b) The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Conclusion and recommendation

350. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 29A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

351. At its 23rd meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 29A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

352. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the proposal to transfer, on a phased basis, the posts of chiefs of missions in 17 of the least developed countries where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates from extrabudgetary financing to the regular budget, and questioned in particular the criteria used in selecting the grades and locations of these posts. Other delegations supported the proposal. Still others expressed the view that all the 17 posts should have been included in the regular budget of section 29A for the 1992-1993 biennium.

353. It was recalled that in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for this section, "no further proposals to change UNHCR's staffing establishment funded from the regular budget would be submitted before 1999".

Conclusion and recommendation

354. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 29A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 29B. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

355. At its 24th meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 29B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

356. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It was noted that such activities, while essential, were not a substitute for a solution to the question of Palestine.

357. The proposed transfer from extrabudgetary resources of three posts to the United Nations regular budget was questioned by some delegations, while others supported the proposal. Some delegations were concerned with the possible adverse impact of this transfer on the level of voluntary contributions to UNPWA.

358. A number of delegations noted with regret that no priority designation had been proposed among the activities on education, health, and relief and social services proposed in this subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

359. The Committee noted with appreciation the proposed redeployment of five posts from Vienna to the field offices.

360. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 29B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 30. Disaster relief operations

361. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

362. A number of delegations emphasized the need for a further strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to fulfil its mandate. Several delegations pointed out that related functions pertaining to the role of the United Nations in addressing disaster and emergency situations appeared to be fragmented in their presentation in the proposed programme budget. In this context, references were made to section 30, section 6 (subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes) and section 29A.

363. The proposed creation of an additional P-5 post was supported by some delegations and questioned by others. It was noted that this new post was proposed for subprogramme 3, which was not a high priority. Some delegations pointed out, however, that this subprogramme should be considered at the same level of priority as the two other subprogrammes. It was proposed as well that additional resources should be given to subprogrammes 1 and 3.

364. Several delegations expressed the view that the proposed staffing table for section 30 appeared to be "top-heavy".

365. Several delegations deplored the lack of information in this section on the implementation of resolution 44/236 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Several delegations suggested that UNDRO should host its secretariat.

Conclusions and recommendations

366. The Committee noted the importance of disaster relief operations.

367. The Committee also noted the proposed priorities among activities within the three subprogrammes.

368. The Committee recommended the inclusion in this section of a programme narrative relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

369. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Section 31. Department of Public Information

370. At its 45th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

371. While some delegations stated that the proposed real growth of the Department was excessive, other delegations felt that the growth was commensurate with the important work of the Organization in the area of public information.

372. One delegation remarked that the concept of "peace-making" included in this section is subject to the consultations mentioned in the relevant conclusions of section 2.

373. One delegation recommended that resources for information activities in developed countries be reallocated to provide additional resources for information activities in developing countries.

374. Some delegations regretted that while several publications of the Department were issued in English, French and Spanish these publications were not also published in Arabic. One delegation specifically requested that the programmatic text of the section be modified to include an Arabic version to the publications and videos mentioned in paragraphs 31.10 (a), 31.11 (d), 31.11 (f), 31.11 (h), 31.14, 31.16, 31.17 (a), 31.17 (b), 31.18 (a), 31.19 (a), 31.19 (b), 31.19 (c), 31.20 (a) and 31.20 (b). Other delegations stressed, inter alia, that cost-effective considerations should be kept in mind in issuing and selling DPI publications and that all United Nations languages should be adequately respected.

375. The view was expressed that the reproduction of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies document was a waste of United Nations resources. It was stated as well that the Department of Public Information activities could be reduced or terminated in a certain country in order to allow for a redeployment of resources to provide greater information services to developing countries.

376. Some delegations noted the absence of a reference to the Trust Fund for African Economic Recovery and Development under both section 31, Public information, and section 11, Development and international economic cooperation.

377. While one delegation questioned the high priority designation for information activities on the Question of Palestine, several delegations supported this priority designation. One delegation expressed its reservation on the funding of information activities on the Question of Palestine.

378. Some delegations felt that the information activities on human rights could be expanded to include the question of economic rights. The view was expressed that the information activities on economic development should also be accorded high priority.

379. Some delegations were of the view that United Nations Day concerts should include musical expressions of various regions in the world.

380. Some delegations expressed concern at the relatively small increase in resources for the United Nations Information Centres. Other delegations pointed out that expenditure on Information Centres alone already exceeded expenditure on a number of priority substantive programmes.

381. Several delegations queried the progress made in eliminating the backlog of the Yearbook.

382. While it was proposed to eliminate United Nations press releases, some delegations recalled their importance for newspaper correspondents accredited to the United Nations.

383. A number of delegations were of the view that the budget section was unclear and that no clear strategy emerged from the proposed programme budget of this section. They felt that it reflected essentially a catalogue of proposed activities.

384. One delegation noted the relatively low proportion of resources proposed for programme support activities.

385. Some delegations felt that justifications for the proposed reclassification of the post of Director of the Communications and Project Management Division from D-1 to the D-2 level was inadequate.

386. One delegation believed the Department's proposed activities on the Question of Palestine were unbalanced and would not contribute to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Conclusions and recommendations

387. The Committee emphasized the importance of the objective of the Department of Public Information in promoting the goals and the activities of the United Nations.

388. The Committee noted that the format of section 31, which differed from other sections of the budget, did not present a clear relationship between the proposed activities and the resources requested. The Committee further noted that it was difficult to determine the distribution of resources between Headquarters and the field offices and the relationship with public information activities conducted under othe sections. Accordingly, the Secretariat should comply with the format for the standard presentation of the budget.

389. The Committee reiterated the importance of ensuring linguistic diversity in the outputs of the Department and other conclusions and recommendations in

earlier reports, and in the light of these recommendations requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information issue as many of its publications and documents as possible in Arabic and other official languages of the United Nations.

390. The Committee emphasized that, in carrying out its activities under subprogramme 1 of section 31 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, the Department of Public Information should give due attention to all priorities of the United Nations as adopted in the medium-term plan, the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and bearing in mind the relevant regulations.

391. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

B. Programme performance of the United Nations

Methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations

392. At its 15th meeting on 22 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (A/46/173).

Discussion

393. Some delegations noted that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had recommended that the process of monitoring the programme performance of the United Nations should be suspended, pending the development of a satisfactory methodology. Several delegations did not share that view.

Conclusions and recommendations

394. The report was reviewed against the background of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee at its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Part Two)), the recommendation of the ACABQ on this subject and General Assembly resolution 45/253.

395. The Committee recalled Article V, Monitoring of Programme Implementation, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

396. The Committee also recalled that two essential objectives of monitoring were to indicate the extent to which activities mandated in the programme budget had been implemented, and to shed light on the changes introduced to the programme budget during its implementation and to explain the reasons for these changes. The Committee noted that performance reports in general did not contain sufficient information on the changes introduced.

397. The Committee acknowledged that the proposed changes in the reporting of programme performance were not of a fundamental nature but could still be a basis for further improvements:

(a) Reporting performance according to four separate formats, as indicated in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General, should facilitate a better coverage of the very diverse types of activities undertaken by the Organization.

(b) A more thorough analysis of the changes introduced to the activities described in the programme budget would be provided as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report.

These changes take place at the initiative of functional, sectoral or regional legislative bodies or are added at the initiative of the Secretariat, after the General Assembly adopts the programme budget. The description and reasons for these changes, accompanied by relevant tables, would clarify important aspects of the process of implementation of the programme budget.

398. The Committee noted the conceptual distinction between monitoring programme implementation and evaluating programme quality and relevance to the objectives embodied in the medium-term plan. The report on programme performance should, however, contain an overall assessment summing up the main characteristics of the implementation of the programme budget during a biennium without involving costs disproportionate to the value of the information provided. This assessment should provide, inter alia, information that would facilitate the identification by Member States of outdated and inefficient activities and reformulation of programmes in the light of newly identified objectives. It should also suggest areas that would require an evaluation by the internal evaluation unit, the Joint Inspection Unit, or other independent evaluators.

399. The Committee also emphasized that the report should retain a quantitative approach, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules governing the Programme Planning and Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and give percentage figures on the implementation of each category of activities; this should facilitate a greater accountability for the implementation of the programme.

400. The Committee stressed the importance of a review of resource utilization and welcomed the inclusion of information on the role of extrabudgetary resources in the funding of activities. The Committee also noted that the estimated work-months utilized for the delivery of groups of activities was a proxy or a rough indication of the level of resources used. Future programme performance reports should continue to provide such information and the possibility should be explored for providing corresponding figures for the initially estimated allocation of work-months. While this approach would bring a closer link between programme performance and budget performance, the Committee noted that such a linkage was at present unclear. The Committee stressed that one of the main reasons for this was the lack of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers, as well as of a clear formulation of programme objectives, as distinct from programme activities. The Committee recommended that such a system should be established.

401. The Committee noted that the proposed methodology was closely linked with the revised format of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on this revised format are therefore relevant to the monitoring of programme implementation.

C. Statements of programme budget implications and procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund

402. At its 16th meeting on 22 May 1991, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/46/170).

Discussion

403. Several delegations expressed concern at the prospect of appropriations from the contingency fund being added to the resource base of the future biennium.

Conclusions and recommendations

404. The Committee noted with appreciation the conciseness and clarity of the report.

405. There was general agreement in the Committee that, although the first two years of experience with the use and operation of the contingency fund had been satisfactory, it was premature to make a definitive judgement on the appropriate level of the fund and on its mode of operation.

406. The Committee reiterated the need to implement the recommendation of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 44/200 B regarding the progressive extension of the provision of statements of programme budget implications to all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Although the Committee was aware of the difficulties involved, it recommended that the Secretariat should pursue its efforts to extend the provision of such statements, in the most appropriate manner, to subsidiary bodies in accordance with relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/200 B.

407. The Committee stressed that the Secretariat's efforts should also include measures which would enhance general awareness of the budgetary process in these bodies and in all its units.

408. The Committee recommended that the mandate of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters should be fully respected.

409. The Committee recalled the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation regarding the programmatic content of the statements of the

programme budget implications submitted to intergovernmental bodies and recommended that in all such statements the Secretariat should place greater emphasis on the programmatic implications of draft resolutions or decisions.

410. The Committee expressed concern that in most of the statements on programme budget implications submitted in the last two years, there had not been a precise indication, as required by the General Assembly (resolution 41/213, annex I, para. 9), of alternative solutions for carrying out new activities, in case it were not possible to finance all or part of the additional requirements from the contingency fund. Although the Committee recognized that the identification of such alternatives in some cases might be difficult, it considered that it was a requirement which was an integral part of resolutions 41/213 and 44/211. The Committee strongly recommended that this requirement should be strictly observed and that viable alternatives should be submitted to Member States in all statements of programme budget implications or revised estimates.

411. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-third session, and in the light of the experience gained during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, which would be also the first biennium of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, a report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

412. The Committee noted that the concept of extraordinary expenses, as mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General, should be further elaborated at an appropriate stage and by the appropriate intergovernmental and expert bodies of the United Nations.

D. Evaluation

1. In-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

413. At its 3rd to 5th meetings, on 13 and 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1991/2).

Conclusions and recommendations

414. The Committee noted that the final report had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations on methodology for this evaluation, contained in paragraphs 358 to 361 of its report on the work of its thirtieth session. 2/

415. The Committee recalled that this was the first evaluation of a political programme and that it had chosen questionnaires as the main instrument. Although it was recognized that the questionnaires had been adequately designed and distributed, the Committee was concerned, on the whole, about the low response rates to them. That raised a number of questions concerning the validity of some of the conclusions drawn on the basis of the received replies.

416. The Committee noted that the overall assessment of the servicing of the disarmament programme was positive.

417. The Committee took note of the report and its recommendations, and decided that a separate report to the Committee reviewing implementation of those recommendations would not be necessary.

2. In-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

418. At its 6th, 7th and 9th meetings, on 15 and 17 May, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (E/AC.51/1991/4 and Corr.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

419. The Committee recalled the humanitarian, non-political character of UNHCR, in accordance with its Statute.

420. The Committee recommended that in the final report greater emphasis should be given to the views of Governments than in the progress report.

421. Recalling its concern about the low response rate to questionnaires sent in connection with other evaluation reports, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat should make every effort to obtain a sufficient number of responses to the questionnaires proposed in paragraph 64 of the progress report and that consideration should be given to seeking the views of the refugees themselves.

422. The Committee endorsed the issues to be addressed and the methodology proposed in paragraph 64 of the progress report with the following modifications:

(a) Adequacy of the Office's mandate. The Committee was of the view that the mandate of the Office, as laid out in the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 3/ should not be examined. The evaluation should be limited to an assessment of the achievements of the objectives of UNHCR, in conformity with Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. 4/ Consequently, the methodology proposed in paragraph 64 (a) of the progress report should be modified accordingly.

(b) Early warning. The Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (A/45/649 and Corr.1) to be an essential input into the progress report and recommended that duplication of the in-depth evaluation report with this report and the work being done elsewhere in this area should be avoided. The report should assess the modalities of integration of UNHCR

in the United Nations early warning system, bearing in mind the views expressed by delegations. In this context, the Committee emphasized the importance of coordination of UNHCR's activities with other entities of the United Nations system, inter alia, with those involved in humanitarian activities.

(c) Training. The Committee recommended that all the training activities of UNHCR should be evaluated and consequently the methodology should be broadened.

(d) Assistance. The Committee recommended that the proposals in paragraph 64 (d) should be adopted without change.

(e) Dissemination. The Committee recommended that the proposals in paragraph 64 (e) should be adopted without change.

(f) Publicity by UNHCR of its activities on behalf of refugees. The Committee recommended that the evaluation should provide information on, inter alia, the effectiveness of UNHCR publicity as a fund-raising instrument.

(g) The annual fund-raising and budget cycle. The Committee stressed the importance of the issue of fund-raising as part of the in-depth evaluation report. In preparing the report, the UNHCR consultant's report to the Executive Committee on this issue should be taken into account.

423. The Committee endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 65 with the understanding that due regard will also be paid to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 5/

3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the evaluation of the programmes on development issues and policies

424. At its 7th to 9th meetings, on 15 to 17 May 1991, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the evaluation of the programmes on development issues and policies (E/AC.51/1991/5).

Conclusions and recommendations

425. The Committee welcomed General Assembly resolution 45/264, which was adopted on 13 May 1991 and which contained decisions corresponding to the Committee's recommendation concerning high-level segments in the Economic and Social Council.

426. The Committee agreed that it was important to pay more attention to the way in which messages of the United Nations were transmitted to the international community. In this connection, it appreciated the increased outreach efforts by the Secretariat to non-governmental organizations, academics and other professional groups and the press, and encouraged the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with

the Department of Public Information and other units concerned to continue their efforts in this regard.

427. The Committee also noted the increased cooperation between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and other entities, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and urged the Department to intensify its efforts for greater coordination.

428. The Committee was aware that the UNDP Governing Council decisions concerning national execution (decisions 89/20 and 90/21) and the new support cost arrangement, details of which were to be decided at the thirty-eighth session of the Council, in June 1991, might result in reorientation of the operational activities of the United Nations system, including the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. In this connection, the Committee requested that the Department, when reviewing its activity in the light of new developments, take into account its important role of assisting the recipient Governments to strengthen their capacity for self-reliance.

429. The Committee reiterated its views that duplication of work between the Department of Technical Cooperation and UNDP should be avoided. In this connection, it understood that a report concerning the division of labour between the Department and UNDP was to be submitted to the UNDP Governing Council at its forthcoming session in June.

430. The Committee took note of the efforts at implementation made to date, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1991/5).

4. In-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa

431. At its 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th meetings on 14, 15, and 17 May 1991, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa (E/AC.51/1991/3).

Conclusions and recommendations

432. The Committee took note of the final report of the Secretary-General on in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa.

433. The Committee reiterated the continued validity of the objectives and purposes of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) as endorsed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/76 and General Assembly resolution 45/248 A.

434. The Committee welcomed the progress achieved in the preparation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. In this context, it re-emphasized the role of the MULPOCs in providing the necessary technical support, including the preparation of studies, for their respective subregional economic groupings so as to facilitate their eventual integration into an African economic community.

435. The Committee noted the judgement of the review team that persistent inadequacies of financial and human resources had continued to adversely affect the ability of the MULPOCs and the Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) to fulfil their respective mandates.

436. The Committee stressed that any modifications to the programme structure of the MULPOCs should not reduce the scope of their approved mandate from which subprogramme 2 of section 23 of the proposed programme budget is derived. The Committee stressed the need to strengthen appropriate activities relating to subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration in Africa.

437. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should identify those activities relating to economic cooperation and integration that could be reoriented and focused wholly on subregional objectives and priorities, as set out by economic subregional grouping, and that he should submit appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

438. The Committee recommended that, in reviewing the resource requirements of the MULPOCs at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly should fully reflect the recommendations of the Evaluation Report (E/AC.51/1991/3) as well as other relevant reports adopted by it. It further recommended that, in the light of this review, the requisite resources should be provided to the MULPOCs for the efficient fulfilment of their mandate relating to subregional economic cooperation and integration in Africa.

439. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly invite the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide adequate resources to support the economic integration process and to allow PADIS to become fully operational, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council.

E. Contribution of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/254

440. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 22 and 23 May, the Committee considered, on the basis of an oral statement by the representative of the Secretary-General, the Contribution of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/254.

Discussion

441. Delegations took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of resolution 45/254.

442. Some delegations regretted the absence of a written report on the subject.

443. Several delegations were of the view that, although certain reform measures had been put in place, efforts should continue. Other delegations expressed concern about the adverse impact of economy measures on the effective programme delivery by the Secretariat. Some delegations recalled that in resolution 45/254 the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to consolidate and build upon the results achieved through the reform process.

Conclusions and recommendations

444. The Committee stressed its role in the context of the implementation of resolutions 41/213, 45/254 and other resolutions on the review of efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

445. The Committee also noted the measures that were being undertaken in the Secretariat to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization.

446. The Committee recommended that the search for more efficient and effective organization should be intensified in order to enable the United Nations to achieve its objectives and respond to challenges.

447. The Committee observed that the interactions between the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination should be enhanced in accordance with resolution 45/254, section B.

448. The Committee recommended that the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 45/254 should take into account the conclusions of the Committee. In this connection, the Committee recalled the provisions of this resolution identifying actions to be taken by the Secretary-General and requested that he should report on a continuing basis to the CPC and the General Assembly on the implementation of these provisions.

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

449. At its 10th to 12th meetings, on 17 and 20 May, the Committee considered the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC (E/1991/42 and Add.1 and 2, E/1990/123, and E/1991/44) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/16 and Corr.1).

Discussion

450. Several delegations remarked that coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions through the ACC and Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC was important.

451. Several delegations proposed that the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC should address the impact of General Assembly resolution 45/264 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations and on the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Other delegations stated that the topic to be discussed should be the implementation of the International Development Strategy by the organizations of the United Nations system.

Conclusions and recommendations

The annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

452. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of coordination in the United Nations system. Coordination should ensure the most effective division of labour and mutual complementarity of efforts and should lead to the efficient and coherent utilization of human and financial resources put at the disposal of the organizations of the system. Existing coordination instruments should be improved in order to strengthen coordination. The need for enhanced coordination at the field level, under the leadership of the resident coordinator, was emphasized.

453. The Committee underlined the central role of ACC in bringing about concerted and effective responses by all the entities of the system to a large number of global problems. ACC was encouraged to continue to improve its work and to move forward with the development and implementation of system-wide action plans as requested by Member States. The leadership role of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the ACC, was stressed.

454. The ACC annual overview report for 1990 (E/1991/42 and Add.1 and 2) was considered to be a definite improvement over previous reports. The format of the report was welcomed, as was the emphasis given to substantive issues. The

foreword of the Secretary-General was found to be most useful. The Committee was of the view, however, that further improvements should be made in the annual overview report. In particular, the report should be more analytical and action-oriented. ACC should bring to the attention of Member States problems encountered in the implementation of system-wide activities. The annual overview report should also clearly indicate the actions taken or envisaged by ACC on issues of concern to the international community and provide appropriate recommendations to the intergovernmental bodies.

455. The new ACC report on programmes and resources of the United Nations system, contained in an addendum to the annual overview report, was welcomed by the Committee. The report constituted a useful reference tool which would enable Member States and organizations to avoid overlapping and duplication and to improve coordination in the United Nations system. The Committee requested ACC to continue to study the feasibility of establishing a system-wide database on programmes and resources, with a greater degree of detail on programme activities, including expenditures on administrative and substantive activities of appropriate secretariat structures. The Committee was of the view that more comprehensive and transparent information on the activities of the system would facilitate the coordination of national governmental policies in the various governing bodies as well as in central intergovernmental bodies. The Committee noted the shortcomings of the report, some of which were related to the ACC programme classification which is currently being revised. The Committee agreed that a revised programme classification would lead to greater transparency in the description of activities.

456. The Committee noted a number of ways in which the report could be improved in the future. The programme descriptions should be more consistent and the programme objectives should be formulated more clearly, so as to improve the focus of the report. Much more precise data for each type of extrabudgetary resources should complete the data already provided in terms of the regular budgets. Data for extrabudgetary and regular budget resources should be provided, both separately and in an aggregated manner. The Committee agreed that the report on programmes and resources should be prepared on a biennial basis and should replace the existing ACC report on expenditures in relation to programmes. It should also be drawn to the attention of all relevant intergovernmental bodies, which were encouraged to utilize this report, thus ensuring system-wide administrative and substantive coordination on the matters dealt with in the report.

Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

457. The Committee took note of the report of the twenty-fifth series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/123).

458. The Committee reaffirmed that the Joint Meetings provided a valuable and unique opportunity for Member States to engage in a productive dialogue with executive heads.

459. The Committee agreed that, for the Joint Meetings to be successful, participation should continue to be at a high level, the participants should engage in a genuine dialogue and the discussion should be focused on, and lead

to, specific conclusions and action-oriented recommendations. Their duration should be two days.

460. The Committee had previously identified the implementation of the International Development Strategy by the organizations of the United Nations system as the topic for the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings, which would be held in New York on 22 and 23 October 1991. The question of the implementation of the provisions of the Final Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, in their relation to the International Development Strategy, should also be kept in mind when addressing the topic. A preparatory meeting would be held on 18 October 1991.

461. The Committee recommended that the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC should make suggestions to the organizational session of Economic and Social Council on the topic(s) to be discussed at the high-level segment of the Council in 1992.

Register of development activities of the United Nations system

462. The Committee took note of the report of ACC on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System (E/1991/44) in which ACC recommends the continuation of the publication of the Register in its present form.

B. Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development

463. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/16 and Corr.1).

C. Draft framework for the preparation of a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development

464. At its 46th meeting on 8 June, the Committee considered the draft framework for the preparation of a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development (E/AC.51/1991/CRP.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

465. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to comment on the draft outline in order to provide the Secretariat with further guidance on the preparation of the system-wide plan of action. The Committee reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to prepare the system-wide plan of action in accordance with paragraph 15 of the report of its resumed thirtieth session, taking into account the comments made during the discussion on the draft framework of the preparation of the system-wide plan, as well as the decision to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the final review of UNPAAERD.

IV. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/44/646 and A/45/648)

466. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 21 May, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) selected by the Committee at its organizational session, entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical cooperation projects" (A/44/646) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/45/648).

Discussion

467. A number of delegations expressed the opinion that the report of JIU provided a useful basis for consideration with respect to the improvement of the procurement system for technical cooperation projects through more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement. Some delegations objected to all the recommendations in the report while others were opposed to the use of the term "geographical" in the text.

468. Some delegations, while recognizing that the JIU report focused on projects of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), underlined the need to expand the purchase of goods and services in developing countries as well as in the under-utilized major developed countries, not only for economic cooperation projects, but also for all purchases by the system as a whole. Several delegations stressed that such purchases should be related only to UNDP projects.

469. Several delegations stressed that the criteria of good and appropriate quality, low price and adequate guarantees should always apply, as should competitiveness, competition and international bidding in procurement procedures and practices. The view was expressed that such criteria were difficult to work out and that specifications for the functioning and the quality of goods should be clearly set out for international bidding and procurement procedures. Some delegations considered that due regard should be given to the specific procurement targets of the developing countries, while others objected to it.

470. Several delegations stressed that, with the increased international division of labour, many finished products included components from the developing countries and the share of some developing countries in the production of such goods had been increasing.

Conclusions and recommendations

471. The Committee reaffirmed that all countries should have as many opportunities and access as possible to the procurement process for the operational activities of the United Nations system. Consideration should be given to practical and effective measures to increase the procurement from developing countries as well as the underutilized major donor countries, with due regard for the principle of international competitive bidding and the procurement regulations of the United Nations system, including the

preferential arrangements approved by UNDP. In this context, the Committee stressed the important role of programme managers and coordinators, both at Headquarters and in the field, as well as host Governments in promoting procurement from sources of supply in the developing countries.

472. The Committee acknowledged the efforts made by some United Nations agencies to increase procurement from developing countries and underutilized major donor countries and recommended that this practice should be encouraged. The Committee further requested the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) to continue to improve its methods and procedures for identifying new sources of procurement, as well as its compilation and reporting of information on procurement.

473. The Committee stressed that efforts should be made to overcome old stereotypes and negative attitudes in respect of purchases of goods for United Nations projects from the developing countries.

474. The Committee felt that it was very important to develop a reliable statistical database for purchases and stressed the role of IAPSO as a focal point for the collection of data. Information on procurement opportunities, including competitive international bidding and countries' capacities, should be made available to all interested countries so as to provide better field information and greater transparency.

475. The Committee took note of the recommendations contained in the JIU report and the comments on these recommendations by the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

476. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-second session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-second session of the Committee shall be of six weeks' duration.

477. At the 49th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for the thirty-second session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1991/L.5), as orally revised.

478. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for their review, the following provisional agenda for its thirty-second session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   Documentation

   Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

   (c) Outline for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, and regulation 3.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation)

   (d) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolutions 36/228 B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219 and 45/253, and A/43/16, para. 86)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the Human Rights Programme (A/39/38, para. 364)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of social development activities (A/41/38, para. 110)

Report of the Secretary-General identifying options and including action-oriented proposals for solving the problems identified in the assessments cited in the progress report on the major programme on science and technology (A/45/16, para. 366)

Report of the Secretary-General on the timetable for future in-depth evaluations

4. Coordination questions:

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committeee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees

(b) System-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development (A/45/16, para. 146 (b))

5. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.9, para. 9)

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-second session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/45/16).

3/ General Assembly resolution 428 (v), annex.

4/ ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987).

5/ A/45/6.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (b) Programme performance of the United Nations;

   (c) Statements of programme budget implications and procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

   (d) Evaluation;

   (e) Contribution of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/254.

4. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development.

5. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its thirty-first session

A/46/6		Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
	Introduction and overview	
	Section 1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination
	Section 2.	Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information
	Section 3.	Political and Security Council Affairs
	Section 4.	Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services
	Section 5.	Disarmament
	Section 6.	Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Trusteeship and Decolonization
	Section 7.	Elimination of apartheid
	Section 8.	International Court of Justice
	Section 9.	Legal activities
	Section 10.	Law of the Sea and Ocean Affairs
	Section 11.	Development and International Economic Cooperation
	Section 12.	Regular programme of technical cooperation
	Section 13.	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
	Section 14.	Department of Technical Cooperation for Development
	Section 15.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	Section 16.	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
	Section 17.	United Nations Environment Programme
	Section 18.	Centre for Science and Technology for Development
	Section 19.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
	Section 20.	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

	Section 21.	Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
	Section 22.	International Drug Control
	Section 23.	Economic Commission for Africa
	Section 24.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Section 25.	Economic Commission for Europe
	Section 26.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Section 27.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
	Section 28.	Human rights
	Section 29A.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	Section 29B.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
	Section 30.	Disaster relief operations
	Section 31.	Department of Public Information
A/46/170		Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund
A/46/173		Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations
E/1991/16 and Corr.1		Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development
E/1991/42		Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990
E/1991/42/Add.1		Programmes and resources of the United Nations system
E/1991/42/Add.2		Summary of 1990 activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination subsidiary bodies
E/1991/44		Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations system

E/1990/123	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-fifth series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees
E/AC.51/1991/1	Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session
E/AC.51/1991/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme
E/AC.51/1991/3 and Corr.1	Final report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies of the Economic Commission for Africa
E/AC.51/1991/4 and Corr.1	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
E/AC.51/1991/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the evaluation of the programmes on development issues and policies
E/AC.51/1991/CRP.1	Draft framework for a system-wide medium-term plan for the economic recovery of African countries
E/AC.51/1991/CRP.2	Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities of the United Nations system on industrial development
E/AC.51/1991/INF.1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1991/L.1/Rev.1	Draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1991/L.2/Rev.2	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session
E/AC.51/1991/L.3	Agenda for the thirty-first session, as adopted by the Committee at its second meeting, on 6 May 1991
E/AC.51/1991/L.4 and Add.1-47	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/1991/L.5	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee.

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Forty-sixth session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-first session 1/

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with regulation 4.8 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation

1. At its thirty-first session, held in New York from 13 May to 12 June 1991, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) made several recommendations that would give rise to programme budget implications. In accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation these implications and the recommendations to which they relate are presented below.

I. PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

A. Section 4. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

2. In paragraph 96 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General keep the question of the organization of editorial services under review and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. A note on this question will be presented to the Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

B. Section 6. Special Political Questions; Regional Cooperation; Trusteeship and Decolonization

3. In paragraph 116 of its report, the Committee recommended that the programme narrative of section 6 should be revised so as to read at the end of paragraph 6.18 "in pursuance of resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations organs". The Committee further recommended that the number and volume of activities should be adjusted to take account of the requirements necessary to fulfil those decisions.

4. In paragraph 117 of its report, the Committee noted the proposed resource allocation between subprogrammes in this section and recommended that the Secretary-General should review this proposed allocation in the light of recent developments and recommended that, in order to assist the General Assembly, revised estimates be submitted to the forty-sixth session. Any proposals in that regard should not have a negative impact on the Organization's ability to carry out mandated activities under subprogramme 2, both in respect of the remaining territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and in respect of the trusteeship system.

5. The requested revised estimates will be prepared taking into account paragraph 116 of the report of the Committee and will be submitted to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

C. Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

6. In paragraph 155 of its report, the Committee recommended that a separate and identifiable unit be established within the Office of the Director-General to undertake those activities that fell within its responsibility as proposed under programme 45 of the medium-term plan. The Secretary-General will make appropriate arrangements to respond to this recommendation.

7. In paragraph 159 of its report, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 155 to 158 of its report and to decisions of the Economic and Social Council and on the understanding that the regular budget resources requested for this section by the Secretary-General would be adequate. The Committee then recommended, in paragraphs 160 to 186 of its report, modifications to the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget. The attention of the Council is drawn to these modifications.

8. The recommendations of the Committee would fall under programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and would enhance the prospect of

implementing effectively the strategies and achieving the objectives of the programme and its three subprogrammes.

9. Should the General Assembly approve the above-mentioned recommendations of CPC, including the resources requested under section 11A by the Secretary-General, the programme narrative of part 2. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development under section 11A would be modified accordingly.

D. Section 11B. World Food Council

10. In paragraph 191 of its report, the Committee recommended that the low priority designations should be deleted from the work of the ad hoc expert groups under 2(b) and that low priority be assigned to all information activities under 3(a) and (b).

11. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee mentioned in paragraph 10 above the relevant modifications in priority designation will be made accordingly.

E. Section 11C. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

12. In paragraph 200 of its report, the Committee recommended that paragraph 11C.2 should be changed to include a reference to General Assembly resolution 44/228 and that the remaining part of the paragraph should be deleted.

13. Should the General Assembly approve this recommendation paragraph 11C.2 of section 11C will be modified accordingly.

14. In paragraph 201 of its report, the Committee recommended that appropriate revisions should be made to the medium-term plan and proposals for the 1992-1993 budget, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and should be considered during the thirty-second resumed session of CPC.

15. Should the General Assembly approve this recommendation the Secretary-General would endeavour to implement it, taking account of the short time available between UNCED and the resumed session of CPC.

F. Section 12. Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

16. In paragraph 216 of its report, the Committee recommended that activities related to the Environment programme should be included separately under Sectoral Advisory Services.

17. Should the General Assembly approve this recommendation the narrative of section 12 will be modified accordingly.

G. Section 13. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

18. In paragraph 230 of its report, the Committee recommended that the low priority designations should be deleted from the list of parliamentary documentation under subprogramme 3 of the energy and natural resources programme, and from the list of published material under subprogramme 3 of the population programme.

19. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations mentioned in paragraph 18 above the relevant modifications in priority designations will be made to section 13.

H. Section 17. United Nations Environment Programme

20. In paragraph 263 of its report, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should consider, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the practice with regard to the inclusion in this section of conference-servicing costs relating to the intergovernmental bodies of UNEP, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the overall issue of conference servicing relating to United Nations intergovernmental bodies convened in Nairobi.

21. In response to this recommendation, the Secretary-General will submit a note to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

22. In paragraph 265 of its report, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, on the understanding that all non-mandated activities would be excluded from the programme narrative.

23. Should the Economic and Social Council approve the recommendation mentioned in paragraph 22 above relevant changes in the proposed activities under section 17 will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

I. Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

24. In paragraph 276 of its report, the Committee recommended that the low priority designation under paragraph 19.18.1 (a) should be deleted.

25. Should the General Assembly approve this recommendation the relevant modification will be made.

J. Section 22. International Drug Control

26. In paragraph 301 of its report the Committee recommended the addition of the following words to paragraph 22.15 relating to subprogramme 6: "(d) to devising ways and means of increasing access to opiates for legitimate medical purposes, particularly among developing countries."

27. The activity would fall within the objectives and strategy of subprogramme 6 of programme 28 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

28. Should the General Assembly approve this recommendation paragraph 22.15 of section 22 will be modified accordingly.

K. Section 23. Economic Commission for Africa

29. In paragraph 311 of its report, the Committee stressed the importance of evaluation as an effective tool for monitoring the programme performance and effectiveness of ECA and recommended that the Secretary-General should make proposals to strengthen appropriately this function within ECA to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in the light of resolution 44/201 B and in accordance with the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation.

30. In response to this request, the Secretary-General will submit a note to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

L. Section 26. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. In paragraph 338 of its report, the Committee recommended that:

(a) Activities relating to economic integration and cooperation should be specifically mentioned in the introductory paragraph 26.28 under subprogramme 5, International trade and development finance; and

(b) Activities relating to tourism should be undertaken under subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

32. The activities recommended by CPC would fall within the objectives and the strategies of respectively subprogrammes 5 and 13 of programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1993.

33. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of CPC mentioned in paragraph 31 above the relevant modifications will be made.

M. Section 30. Disaster relief operations

34. In paragraph 368 of its report, the Committee recommended the inclusion in section 30 of a programme narrative relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

35. This recommendation would fall within the objectives and strategy of programme 37 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. Should the General Assembly approve it relevant additions would be made to the programme narrative of section 30.

N. Section 33C. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance

36. In paragraph 49 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General convene, before the thirty-second session of CPC and without cost to the Organization, an ad hoc technical seminar to review various questions regarding the methodology used for the preparation of the programme budget, including its relation with the outline. The participants would be experts acting in their personal capacity, with special qualifications and expertise in budgeting in multilateral organizations or Member States. Interested members of CPC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be invited in the same capacity as experts.

37. In paragraph 53 of its report, the Committee recommended that the budget format ought to be restructured, with a view to providing more information on the programmatic content of the budget, greater transparency to Member States, optimum use of resources and more flexibility. The Committee invited the Secretary-General to submit a prototype of a new budget format along these lines to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

38. The activity described in paragraphs 36 and 37 above would fall under subprogramme 5 of programme 42 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The proposed seminar would address problems referred to in paragraphs 42.6, 42.11, 42.34 and 42.40 of the programme. Relevant extracts are as follows: "... The format of presentation of the programme budget needs improvement so that it will become less complicated and provide more transparency, ..." (para. 42.6); "Efforts will continue to achieve greater transparency of those documents [i.e. medium-term plan and programme budget] through a simplification of their formats and a clearer presentation of programmatic information" (para. 42.11); "The Committee for Programme and Coordination has also recognized that the methodology used for the preparation of the programme budget was complex and presented a number of difficulties, including those in relation to the preparation of the outline. Improvements therefore are also needed in the methodology for the preparation of the programme budget and of its outline, to facilitate the comparability of

estimates in those two instruments" (para. 42.34); and "... The budget format will continue to be reviewed and refined to achieve transparency between objectives of subprogrammes and resources allocated" (para. 42.40).

39. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of CPC mentioned in paragraphs 36 and 37 above an additional activity would be included in subprogramme 5 of section 33C under the cluster of activities "3. Programme planning, budgeting and monitoring", to read as follows:

(d) Seminar: planning, organization and substantive servicing of a technical seminar to review the methodology and format of the programme budget.

40. The Secretary-General intends to convene such seminar during the first quarter of 1992. Its modalities will be determined in the course of 1991.

II. STATEMENTS OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND

41. In paragraph 411 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-third session, and in the light of the experience gained during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, which would be also the first biennium of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, a report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

42. The activity described in the paragraph above would fall under subprogramme 5 of programme 42 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. It would help achieve some of the objectives of subprogramme 5 described in paragraphs 42.35 and 42.38 as follows:

(a) Para. 42.35. "The operation and use of the contingency fund, which also forms part of the new budget process, is still at a developmental stage. While statements of programme budget implications play an important role in the budget process, their format and content will be kept under constant review, especially in the context of a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuation."

(b) Para. 42.38. "The specific objectives of this subprogramme are the following:

(i) To ensure that legislative mandates are translated faithfully into a coherent and effective programme structure so that all activities of the United Nations are well coordinated and efficiently managed;

(ii) To ensure that the strategy set out in the medium-term plan is implemented in terms of specific outputs and services according to legislative intent, and that this is being done with the most effective and efficient utilization of resources."

43. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendation of CPC, mentioned in paragraph 41 above a report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund will be added to the list of parliamentary documentation described in subparagraph 1(a) under paragraph 33C.33 of section 33C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

III. EVALUATION

44. In paragraph 437 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should identify those activities relating to economic cooperation and integration that could be reoriented and focused wholly on subregional objectives and priorities as set out by economic subregional grouping and that he should submit appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

45. The activities recommended by CPC in paragraph 44 above would fall under subprogramme 2 of programme 30 and under subprogramme 5 of programme 42 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The activity would reinforce the strategy of subprogramme 2 of programme 30 which reads in part as follows: "The Secretariat, in particular through the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) will continue to work closely with and assist the African subregional economic communities in implementing their work programmes in priority sectors ...". The activity would also reinforce the objectives of subprogramme 5 of programme 42 which are described in subparagraph 42.38(a) as follows: "to ensure that legislative mandates are translated faithfully into a coherent and effective programme structure so that all activities of the United Nations are well-coordinated and efficiently managed".

46. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of CPC mentioned in paragraph 44 above a report will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session as one of the reports already foreseen and listed at the end of subparagraph 1(a), parliamentary documentation under paragraph 33C.33 of section 33C.

Notes

1/ The report of the Committee will be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16).